

although larvae were recorded in 1927, 1951 and 1978 (thought to be of this species) (Parsons, 1995. A review of the scarce and threatened ethrniine, stathmopodine, and gelechiid moths of Great Britain. *UK Nature Conservation* No 16). In this latter work, Parsons gives a very useful appraisal of the status of *M. arundinetella* and considering the discovery described above his comments “.....overlooked and under-recorded” and “searches for this species in some of its old haunts” would seem appropriate.

My brother and I would like to thank John Langmaid for examining the specimen, for his hospitality and a very pleasant afternoon in general conversation.— M. H. SMITH, 42 Bellefield Crescent Trowbridge Wiltshire BA14 8SR.

An inland colony of *Udea fulvalis* (Hb.) (Lep: Pyralidae) in suburban Hampshire

On the evening of 22 July 2002, I noticed three pyralid moths that had been attracted to the light of my bathroom window in Ringwood, Hampshire. Being an enthusiastic but inexperienced moth recorder, I captured one, and this was later identified as *Udea fulvalis* by Mark Parsons. Subsequent sightings of individuals were made regularly until 13 August, all either at lit windows or found resting in the house in the morning. Two of these additional sightings were also confirmed by Mark Parsons, one from a digital photo and one from a live specimen. Two dead specimens were subsequently found in the house, one of which was confirmed by Phil Sterling. No individuals were found in a 12 watt actinic moth trap that I run several times each week in the garden.

Udea fulvalis is considered an immigrant that is able to establish breeding colonies in Britain for a few years (Goater, 1986. *British Pyralid moths*. Harley Books). Goater and Norris (2001. *Moths of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight*. Pisces Publications), state that the species appears to have become established at Freshwater (Isle of Wight) and Christchurch (see also Cook 2000. *Atropos* number 10: 50) in recent years, also noting singletons in other coastal parts of Hampshire and Dorset (e.g. Lymington). The species may be more widespread along the coast, as it has been recorded at Hengistbury Head and throughout Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch in recent years and in Swanage and Weymouth (Phil Sterling, pers. comm.).

Ringwood is situated on the western edge of the New Forest approximately 13 kilometres (eight miles) inland from the nearest coast (at Christchurch) and slightly further from Hengistbury Head or the coast at Bournemouth. The presence of a possible breeding colony in my small suburban garden (or in a neighbouring one) extends the current range of this species considerably, most notably away from the coastal zone.

My thanks to my colleague at Butterfly Conservation, Mark Parsons, and to Phil Sterling, Natural Environment Manager with Dorset County Council.— RICHARD FOX, Butterfly Conservation, Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Dorset BH20 5QP.